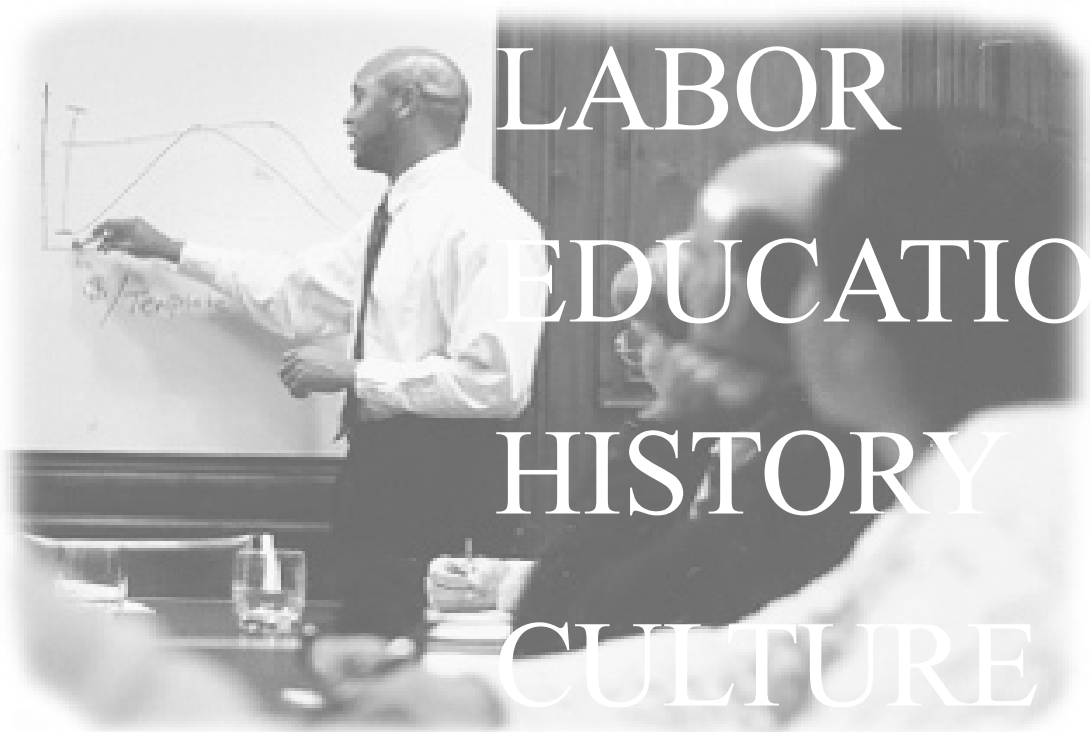


JEFFERSON DAVIS



PARISH

“...the health of a community is a shared responsibility of many entities, organizations and interests in the community, including health services delivery organizations, public health agencies, other public and private entities and the people of a community.”

– Institute of Medicine. 1996. *Healthy Communities: New Partnerships for the Future of Public Health*. National Academy Press. p. 12



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Jefferson Davis Parish

**Jefferson Davis
Tourist Center**
100 Rue De L'Acadie
I-10 Park
P.O. Box 1207
Jennings, LA 70546
337-821-5521

**Regional Office of
Public Health**
Howard Dohn Alexander
Regional Administrator
Southwest Regional
Office
4240 Senator J.
Bennett Johnston Ave.
Lake Charles, LA
70615
337-491-2040
337-491-2041 fax

History¹

Named after the president of the Confederacy, Jefferson Davis Parish was formed on June 12, 1912. Prior to this date it comprised "Imperial Calcasieu" with Allen and Beauregard parishes.

This division was the result of 16 years of deliberation, and passed without a dissenting vote. The early population of the area was a mixture of Creoles, Acadians, and Americans, from many of the other Southern states. The discovery of oil (the first in Louisiana on September 21, 1901) started the oil history of

Louisiana. From that time the development of the area has been constant.

Culture and Recreation³

Settled in the 1800s, Jennings, Lake Arthur, Welsh and Elton are towns which reflect midwestern influence blended with the rich culture and traditions of Southwest Louisiana's people and its diverse landscape. Stroll down brick sidewalks with gaslights. See National Historic Register homes, Victorian architecture, unique museums, a replica of the state's first oil well, scenic byways, Coshatta Indians, a wildlife refuge and lake surrounded by 100-year-old mossdraped oaks.



Parish Seat¹ Jennings¹

Major Cities (over 5,000 population)²

Jennings

1990 11,305

1997 (estimate) 12,024

Parish Population

1990 30,722

1997 (estimate) 31,523

Breakdown of 1996 population (estimates)⁶

White 79%

African American 21%

Other 0%

Male 48%

Female 52%

Population age 0-4 7%

Population age 65 & Over 13%



Geography and Statistics²

Average elevation	22 ft.
Land area in square miles	652.4
Water area in square miles ⁴	6.3

Climate²

Average temperatures	
Annual	69°
January	55°
July	81°
Annual average rainfall	74.6 in.

Labor Force (1995)¹

Civilian	11,950
Employed	11,050
Unemployed	900
Unemployment	7.5%

Agriculture¹

Rice, soybeans, oats, sweet potatoes, cotton, poultry, dairying and catfish farming.

Colleges/Universities²

(within one hour commute)

University of Southwest Louisiana,
Lafayette

McNeese State University, Lake Charles
Louisiana State University, Eunice

Public Libraries⁵ 4

References

- ¹ Louisiana Almanac. 1997. Louisiana Almanac, Pelican Press. Gretna, LA
- ² Louisiana Department of Economic Development. 1999. Louisiana Overview. keyword: overview <http://lled.state.la.us>
- ³ Louisiana Office of Tourism. 1998. keywords: regional information <http://www.crt.state.la.us/crt/tourism.htm>
- ⁴ Police Jury Association of Louisiana. <http://www.lpgov.org/>
- ⁵ State Library of Louisiana. keyword: directories <http://smt.state.lib.la.us/>
- ⁶ U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1998. Population Estimates. 1998. keywords: parish name <http://www.census.gov/datamap/www/22.html>

Educational Attainment (1990)⁷

Less than 5th grade	6.9%
High school graduate or higher	59.9%
Some college or higher	21.8%
Bachelor's degree or higher	8.0%

Major Employers (Products) and Number of Employees²

Private Employers

Wal-Mart (Discount retailer)	350
Jennings American Legion Hospital (Medical)	307
LEEVAC Shipyards, Inc. (Shipbuilding)	250

Public Employers

Jefferson Davis Parish School Board (Education)	850
Welsh General Hospital (Medical)	160
City of Jennings (Government)	110

Poverty and Income

Persons in poverty (1995) ⁷	22.3%
Children under age 18 in poverty ⁷	31.0%
Per capita income (1996)	\$14,379



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PARISH**

⁷ U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1998. keywords: people, poverty, small area income and poverty estimates <http://www.census.gov>

⁸ U.S. Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration. 1999. keywords: economics and statistical administration <http://www.doc.gov>.



Region 1

Jefferson
Orleans
Plaquemines
St. Bernard

Region 2

Ascension
East Baton Rouge
East Feliciana
Iberville
Pointe Coupee
West Baton Rouge
West Feliciana

Region 3

Assumption
Lafourche
St. Charles
St. James
St. John
St. Mary
Terrebonne

Region 4

Acadia
Evangeline
Iberia
Lafayette
St. Landry
St. Martin
Vermilion

Region 5

Allen
Beauregard
Calcasieu
Cameron
Jefferson Davis

Region 6

Avoyelles
Catahoula
Concordia
Grant
LaSalle
Rapides
Vernon
Winn

Region 7

Bienville
Bossier
Caddo
Claiborne
DeSoto
Natchitoches
Red River
Sabine
Webster

Region 8

Caldwell
East Carroll
Franklin
Jackson
Lincoln
Madison
Morehouse
Ouachita
Richland
Tensas
Union
West Carroll

Region 9

Livingston
St. Helena
St. Tammany
Tangipahoa
Washington